

Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin—preferential primary laws had been enacted and were to go into effect for the first time. Under these laws the rank and file of the party had the right to express their preference for Presidential nominees when they voted for delegates to the convention. In all, these States chose 382 delegates, and the result in their primaries justified the claim that Roosevelt was the choice of a large majority of the voters of the Republican party, for of the 382 delegates chosen 278 were instructed specifically to vote for him as the nominee for President and 68 for Taft, 28 of whom were from Georgia, a hopelessly Democratic State. There were 36 for Senator La Follette of Wisconsin. Early in the primary contests eight delegates-at-large in Massachusetts, avowedly Roosevelt men, had been chosen but under a confusing provision of the law a preference for Taft had been adopted by a small majority, "about 3,000. Colonel Roosevelt at once announced that he should demand that this preference be obeyed by the eight delegates, though they had been chosen as Roosevelt supporters, giving as his reason that he intended to have the honest expression of the rank and file obeyed. The primaries in the 36 Congressional districts of the State had resulted in the election of 18 delegates for Roosevelt and 18 for Taft. Later, on the eve of the primaries in the Ohio districts, Mr. Taft announced that the result in them would settle the contest between him and

Eoosevelt, Ohio being Taft's home State.
They resulted
in the election of Eoosevelt delegates in all
the districts,
34 in number, by a majority of 47,000 votes,
but neither
Mr. Taft nor his managers accepted the
verdict as final.
On the contrary, they were able through their
control of
the party machinery to elect four Taft men as
delegates-at-
large when the State Convention met a short
time later,
thereby refusing to accept the 47,000 majority
among the
Republican votes of the State as indicating
the will of the
party. Their course was precisely opposite to
that which
Boosevelt had followed in the Massachusetts
case.